

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am on the sofa for the first time this morning, and must try and give you some account of my little one, as I fear Alec has been far too busy with his baby to talk or write much about mine. What his baby is I leave him to tell you; sufficient to say, he thinks it more wonderful than the Telephone, though he cannot assert it is more marvelous than this little living, human mite lying so quietly in her dainty blue and white bed by my side. She did come exactly three weeks before she was expected, but the doctor says she is a fine, full-grown nine-months baby, though a pound lighter than Elsie when she came. We had a narrow escape from being caught entirely unprepared. Mama by a more chance came home from New York the day before, Alec at the last moment decided not to spend the night away from home, and I was so little sick that we sent for the doctor only an hour before the baby came, and he reached here with not a moment to spare, and my nurse was one borrowed from my next-door neighbor, who, poor thing, is still waiting for her baby. Up to half an hour before the little one came we had no suspicion of her near arrival, the nurse said she never saw much an easy confinement, My nurse appeared three hours after the baby to say she could not come, she was engaged by mistake for 12th March; however, we found another that does well enough. My little girl weighed 6-½ lbs., has long thick black hair, but is not so dark and red as Elsie, though still far from fair. Even Alec, who could not endure my poor little Elsie at this age, thinks her pretty; she is a nice soft, fat little thing. I want to name her Marian Hubbard, but am not perfectly sure that Mamma likes it. It was the name of my youngest sister; she says yes, but so quietly I am waiting to see if she can stand it after a day or two's trial. Elsie is as pleased as possible with "Baby Sister," 2 and supremely happy when the little one is held in her lap for a minute or two. She only wants "more baby." It is so pretty to see her on the floor, her arms around the little one, her head

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leaned gently on the little black one. I send you another photo of Elsie which we like better than the Toronto ones.

Charlie is staying here with us for the present; he could not go into the laboratory as Mr. Tainter has the only spare room; he seems very pleasant and there is no one who would be less unpleasant to have in the house. I mean of course I should prefer not having anyone but my own family in the house for any permanent stay, but as we can't help that I would as soon have Charlie. My sisters like him very much; I of course have seen little of him.

I must thank you very much for the book and tidy; they are very nice, both of them. Mamma is very much vexed that you should have had any trouble or expense about Sister's cards, and begs that you will excuse it. Of course there was a good deal of confusion about the sending.

We hear often by cable from my brother; the first congratulation was from him. They are now in Vienna.

With very much love, Mabel